

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants propose amending the drawings in the application as shown in the attached Replacement Figures 1, 2, 3 and 5. Specifically, free areas have been labeled "F" in Figure 2 to more clearly indicate an unattached, floating relationship in these areas F between the front portion 20 and the first and second lateral sections 28, 29. Additionally, the ends of the fasteners 31A and 31B have been more clearly identified and labeled in FIGURES 1-3. Further, the element number 27 identifying the first lateral section has been corrected to reflect the first lateral section 28 as discussed on page 15 of the Specification. Applicants have also amended the Specification as indicated herein to address paragraph 5 of the Office Action as well as to support the labeling of the ends of the fasteners 31A and 31B. Applicants respectfully submit that the originally filed figures and specification support these changes and that no new matter has been added. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of Replacement Figures 1, 2, 3 and 5.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 12, 2005, Applicants' prior amendment to the Summary of the Invention was deemed to be unclear; the drawings were objected for allegedly failing to describe the letter "F" in the description; the disclosure was objected to for various informalities; Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention; and Claims 1, 3-5, 8-12 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Romare (U.S. Pat. No. 6,027,484).

In this Amendment, Applicants propose amending the Specification as indicated herein and have amended Claims 8, 22 and 24 also as indicated herein; thus, upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1, 3-5, 8-12 and 22-24 will be pending, of which Claims 8 and 22 are independent claims.

With respect to the Summary of the Invention, Applicants propose amending the Summary as indicated herein. The Office Action states on page 4, paragraph 7, that page 4, line 29-page 7, line 3 of the original Summary is redundant and should be deleted. Applicants' records indicate that pages 5-7 of the original Summary were deleted in Applicants' Amendment B; thus, in this Amendment Applicants have struck through that which Applicants believe to be the remaining portions of the original Summary. Applicants respectfully request any assistance or further clarification the Examiner can offer in this regard since Applicants' bona fide intention is to delete all of the original Summary and replace it with a summary of the presently claimed subject matter as indicated herein. Applicants respectfully submit that the Summary of the Invention is now clear and respectfully request entry of the amended Summary.

Regarding the objections to the disclosure, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her close attention to detail. Applicants have amended the Summary of the Invention as indicated above. Further, Applicants have further amended the paragraph on page 13 of the Specification as indicated herein to address a missing word or words. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended Summary and claims addresses the remaining objections without adding new matter since all claim elements are supported by the originally filed specification, claims and drawings. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request removal of the objections to the disclosure and entry of the amended disclosure.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended Claim 24 as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of Claim 24.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3-5, 8-12, and 21-24 are patentable over Romare. For instance, amended Claim 8 recites in pertinent part that the attachment sites remain intact when the outer edges of the releasable fasteners are lifted away from the fastener receptive area and moved toward each other to adjust a size of the personal care article. Romare does not disclose or suggest each and every one of these elements of Claim 8.

In contrast to Claim 8, Romare must fracture the front portion at separating line (12) and multiple glue points (10) in order to adjust its hooks (15, 16) on the fastener (17). See e.g., Figures 1 and 2 of Romare. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the hooks (15, 16) can only be adjusted away from each other and away from the separating line (12) on the fastener (17). In other words, the body (1) taught by Romare can be enlarged and worn as a diaper if its glue points (10) are fractured, which must result in shifting susceptibility of its parts (13,14) since only the hooks (15, 16) hold the parts (13,14) in place on the fastener (17) after the

glue points (10) are broken. Thus, the body (1) described by the cited reference is completely different from the personal care article of Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the allowability of Claim 8, and its dependent Claims 1, 3-5 and 9-14.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22 as amended is patentable over Romare. Claim 22 as amended recites in pertinent part outer ends being configured to be lifted away from the fastener receptive area without breaking the attachment sites and moved in a direction towards each other to adjust a size of the personal care article. Applicants respectfully submit that Romare does not disclose each and every element of Claim 22.

Applicants respectfully submit that at least some of the glue points (10) of Romare must be broken to adjust its hooks (15,16) as discussed above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Romare does not anticipate Claim 22 and respectfully request the removal of the rejection to Claim 22 and allowance of Claims 22-24.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment places the application in complete condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of Claims 1, 3-5, 8-12, and 21-24. If the Examiner has any questions upon consideration of this Amendment, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Please charge any fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,
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10/5/05

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